Banning of Indian drugs by Pakistan

2439. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association has given a representation to his Ministry that Pakistan has banned bulk drugs from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons behind the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes. The Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association had given a representation to this Department on November 1, 2004.

(b) The details of the representation are that Pakistan has a highly discriminating policy against Indian Bulk Drugs according to which import of Bulk Drugs are banned from India once Pakistan has a local production of that bulk drug.

(c) As per the information made available by the High Commission of India, Islamabad, the concerns raised by Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) are pertinent since the import regime governing import of Indian bulk drugs is reportedly discriminatory. In this regard, no changes have been made in the Trade Policy of 2005-06 of Pakistan. Importers of bulk drugs have been sensitizing Pakistan Government from time to time as they feel that imports from India would be more viable financially.

Cheaper drugs to BPL people

2440. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make drugs cheaper, as on today;

(b) if so, the details including drugs targeted for above and method adopted for the same;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for providing free drugs to people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);